

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00  
INRE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 DODE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 MC-01  
PRS-01 L-01 EUR-08 /061 W  
-----125080 282357Z /66

O R 282321Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6961  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
/AMEMBASSY LONDON 560

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4789

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR UK GT BH  
SUBJ: ARMS SHIPMENT FOR GUATEMALA

1. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON TO GIVE ME THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON HIS EFFORTS TO LIBERATE THE 1.7 MILLION ROUNDS OF 5.56 AMMUNITION WHICH BARBADOS HAS BEEN HOLDING AFTER SEIZING IT JUNE 25 IN TRANSIT TO GUATEMALA. HE SAID THAT BARBDOS, AFTER MUCH FRUSTRATED EFFORT BY GOG, HAD FINALLY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF GOG TO COME TO BRIDGETOWN TO APPEAR AT COURT HEARING JULY 29 WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE RELEASE OF AMMUNITION. ACCORDINGLY, HE HAD SENT TWO OFFICIALS WHO WERE DULY AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT GOG. HOWEVER, THEY HAD NOW CALLED TO SAY THAT BARBADOS HAD CHANGED SIGNALS AND WAS NOW INSISTING THAT GOG COULD ONLY BE REPRESENTED BY BARBADIAN LAWYER WHOSE FEE WOULD BE \$10 THOUSAND. PRESIDENT SAID THIS WAS INSULTING AND HE WAS CALLING HIS MEN BACK FROM BRIDGETOWN. HE SAID HE HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE A STRONG PRESS STATEMENT ABOUT THIS CASE AND, RECALLING EARLIER STATEMENT BY BARBADIAN AUTHORITIES  
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THAT THEY WERE CONSULTING UK AND US OFFICIALS ABOUT THE SHIPMENT, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THIS MIGHT PROVOKE ACCUSATIONS IN THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT US WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN HOLD UP OF AMMUNITION. HE THEREFORE WANTED ME TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR ACTION BEFORE HAND.

2. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I FELT CERTAIN THAT WE

HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DELAY OF THIS SHIPMENT. I SAID I APPRECAITED HIS CONSIDERATION IN LETTING US KNOW AND THAT I WOULD ASK WASHINGTON FOR AUTHORITY, IN THE EVENT THERE WERE ACCUSATIONS THAT THE US HAD BEEN INVOLVED, TO DENY ANY SUCH ALLEGATIONS.

3. PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS ASKING FOREIGN MINISTER TO CALL IN UK CONSUL GENERAL ON THIS MATTER THIS AFTERNOON, AND EXPECTED TO DELAY GOG STATEMENT FOR TWENTY FOUR HOURS AFTER THIS MEETING.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, PRESIDENT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED SOME SUSPICION IN LATE JUNE THAT US MIGHT IN FACT HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE SEIZURE OF THIS SHIPMENT. I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING PROMPT AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE DENIAL AS STATED ABOVE AND TO BE ABLE TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT I AM SO AUTHORIZED.  
BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, AMMUNITION, ARMS SHIPMENTS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GUATEM04789  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMS SHIPMENT FOR GUATEMALA  
**TAGS:** PBOR, UK, GT, BH, BB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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